

# TRANSFORMING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Historical Facts about the Catawba County Library

Compiled by Alex Floyd

#### Library Established

1936

#### Notable Librarians

Miss Challie Brandon Hall was the first librarian. She started at the library in 1936.

#### First Bookmobile

The library began a bookmobile program in 1938. The first bookmobile was a reconditioned school bus, which was donated to the American Legion Auxiliary, who owned and operated the library at that time. County commissioners appropriated \$250 annually for fuel. A bookmobile was loaned to the library from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1939. The WPA library service also helped provide books for the bookmobile.

#### Important Facts

The WPA provided funding in the library's early days: it paid the salary for the librarian and provided workers who assisted with the operation of the library and the bookmobile.

The Catawba County Library System began as a project of the American Legion Auxiliary. Unit 16, in Newton, began raising funds in March 1932. In 1935 the library was situated in its first home, the McCorkle house. This house was the former home of Matthew Locke McCorkle, a distinguished Newton attorney and